

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 068549
ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 AGRE-00 HA-05 EB-08 COME-00
TRSE-00 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00
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DRAFTED BY EA/K:BPORTER/RGRICH:FLW
APPROVED BY EA/K - MR. RICH
-----017043 170124Z /62

O 170056Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 068549

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, EAGR, KS, US

SUBJECT: PENDING PL-480 AMENDMENT

1. DEPARTMENT OFFICERS (EA/K) HAD LENGTHY SESSION MARCH 16 WITH ROK EMBASSY ECONOMIC COUNSELOR KANG REVIEWING PL-480 DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS. THE EMBASSY HERE HAS OBVIOUSLY BEEN TASKED WITH ANALYZING WHETHER OUR LATEST OFFER TIES THEM TO ANY "LIST" OF ALLEGED GROSS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATORS.

2. BELIEVE WE EFFECTIVELY CONVINCED KANG THAT PRESENT PROPOSALS CAN IN NO WAY BE CONSTRUED AS DEMEANING TO ROK. HE WAS WELL BRIEFED ON INDONESIAN SIDE LETTER PRECEDENT (WHICH HE EMPHASIZED ROKG COULD NOT ACCEPT), BUT INCORRECTLY HAD BELIEVED PRIOR TO OUR DISCUSSION THAT USG WAS STILL SEEKING AMENDMENT LANGUAGE FIRST BROACHED IN NOVEMBER.

3. FINAL CLINCHER CAME WHEN KANG ASKED ABOUT OUR ACTIONS IN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND ELSEWHERE AND CONFIDENTIAL

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WAS INFORMED THAT WE HAD VOTED AFFIRMATIVELY MARCH 16 IN ADB ON LOAN TO KOREA. WE ARE SENDING YOU SEPARATELY SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING DISCUSSION OF OUR DECISION ON PENDING IFI LOANS WITH ROKG.

4. DISCUSSION CONCLUDED WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICER EXPRESSING THE HOPE THAT WE COULD REACH AGREEMENT AS

QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE ON THE PENDING PL 480 AMENDMENT
SO THAT WE COULD GET ON WITH DISCUSSION OF THE MUCH
BROADER ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH THE ROKG'S REQUEST CONTAINED
IN DPM NAM'S DECEMBER LETTER ON LONG-TERM AGRICULTURAL
COMMODITY ARRANGEMENTS. VANCE

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